(c) by when, this project is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Trade unions of Indian Railways

†3138. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the procedure for granting recognition to Trade Unions of the Indian Railways is quite transparent;

(b) what is the present number of recognized Trade Unions in the Railways;

(c) whether any procedure has been introduced for granting recognition by means of a 'Secret ballot'; and

(d) whether his Ministry has introduced a procedure of 'Secret ballot' for granting recognition to the trade unions without consulting the Ministry of Labour in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways grant recognition to Unions on the basis of rules laid down in Indian Railway Establishment Manual.

(b) At present there are 32 recognized unions on 16 zones of Indian Railways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Container movement by private parties

3139. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) since when have private parties been allowed to move containers from ports to ICDs and vice versa;

(b) how many parties have sought permission to do this under the new policy;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.